

January 10, 1974

SENATOR NORE: I'm not too familiar with what we're doing here but I'm wondering. Does the licensee have to keep a record of all types of drugs and pills that are given to a patient?

SENATOR KENNEDY: To each patient?

SENATOR NORE: Like they do in the hospitals?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, I'm sure that's correct, Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: One of the reasons I asked this. I...we do get some complaints...I don't know how valid they are but some of these folks go to some of these real fine homes. But sometimes they are...in order to make the work easier...the work load easier...they build them up and keep them that way...until kingdom come...and do we...do you have any...do we have any way of checking on this kind of thing?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, I think, and especially in that type of home, you already have your medical facilities available and if there's a complaint, let me say this, I have personally investigated and followed up some complaints and there are some abuses. But, I think it's our duty, your duty, my duty, anyone of the family that have persons in that home to complain and see that it's corrected. This only gives an opportunity for, I think, even correcting what you're talking about to a degree. I think if the people are concerned themselves which they have an opportunity, if they know that home is licensed and we are trying to license every home under the qualifications that they need to be qualified for. Some need nursing, qualified physician and nursing and others do not need but we do want to be sure they are licensed. We know where they are so then if we have a health problem or a fire problem or anything else, we can follow through. So, I think, we're trying to do what you're saying.

SENATOR NORE: We have another situation where...we have a number of homes in the State of Nebraska where they isn't an M.D. living in the town. And, would this help these folks to....

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes. Depending upon the qualifications, this is specifying what type of home for what type of people.

SENATOR NORE: Yes.

SENATOR KENNEDY: This would give a clear view of the Health Department to inspect those homes under those circumstances. And, you know, there are certain homes must have a nursing...facilities and care, and, of course, that's a different qualification. That's what this bill is all about, to conform so they can legally do what they are asking, you know, under Medicare or Medicaid principally so that we can conform with those laws.

SENATOR NORE: And you still have the checks and balances so that you can find out....a check to find out some person's put in this home and in order to lower the work load, they just keep them under drugs all of the time.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, and I understand that's our duty as citizens to report those and see if it's a true fact and then follow through. And, if the home is licensed under this particular bill, we'll have an opportunity to know where the home is and more about it.

SENATOR NORE: Fine.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Cavanaugh and then Senator Clark.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. I think I'd have to support Senator Goodrich in this...in his motion that we not return this bill LB513 for this amendment. It seems to me that this is a rather sensitive type of thing to deal with giving authorization to individuals not medically trained to assist in the dispensement of medication. And, I think we would have an opportunity in the Health and Welfare Committee to gather testimony regarding this and to assure